



EUROPEAN NURSERYSTOCK ASSOCIATION

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Minutes of the ENA General Assembly Meeting held at 09.30 on 29th January 2015 at IPM trade show – room C (CC OST) Essen (Germany).

Present: Tim Edwards (United Kingdom – **President**), Heinz Kunz (Switzerland), Val Farrell (Ireland), Nadiia Gatalska (Ukraine), Sergey Malovichko (Ukraine), Tatyana Boyadzhieva (Bulgaria), Leon Smet (Netherlands), Harm Horlings (Netherlands), Nele Lauwers (Belgium), Willy De Nolf (Belgium - **Treasurer**), Marc Van Hulle (Belgium), Jyri Uimonen (Finland), Arttu Haverinen (Finland), Henning Roed (Denmark), Patrick Svensson (Sweden – **Vice-President**), Maja Persson (Sweden), Mateusz Milczyński (Poland), Grzegorz Falkowski (Poland), Milka Glavendekić (Serbia), Luis B. Martín Martín (Spain), Alba Riado-Bouloumié (Spain), Sotiris Mammos (Greece), Markus Guhl (Germany), David Brown (United Kingdom), Edoardo Sciutti (Italy), Maurizio Lapponi (Italy), and Josep M. Pagès (**Secretary General**).

After the break at 12.00 Sergey Malovichko (Ukraine) was replaced by Natatiya Sidorenko (Ukraine) and Irina Savvateeva (Russia) joined the meeting.

Tim Edwards (UK – President), opened the meeting welcoming the attendants and encouraging to keep discussions short and fluent to ensure the large agenda of the meeting would be completed in time.

1. Apologies for absence.

Olav Folkvord (NO), Ronny Berdinesen (NO), Bent Leonhard (DK), Elaine M. Farrell (IE), Jaime Riera (ES), Peter Bontekoe (NL), Nikos Thymakis (GR) and Jan Dieter Bruns (DE).

New delegates to an ENA General Assembly meeting Sotiris Mammos (GR), Milka Glavendekić (RS), Sergey Malovichko (UA), Nadiia Gatalska (UA), Luis B. Martín Martín (ES) and Alba Riado-Bouloumié (ES) introduced themselves. Tim Edwards (UK – President) said the delegation from Ukraine had been invited as observers due to their interest to join ENA.

2. Agreement of the Agenda.

The agenda was agreed including the proposal made by Luis Martín (ES) to discuss the availability of plant protection products (> 21. AOB).

3. Minutes: approval of the minutes of the previous meeting held on 6/7 July 2014.

The minutes were agreed.

4. Matters arising from the minutes.

There were no comments.

5. President's introduction.

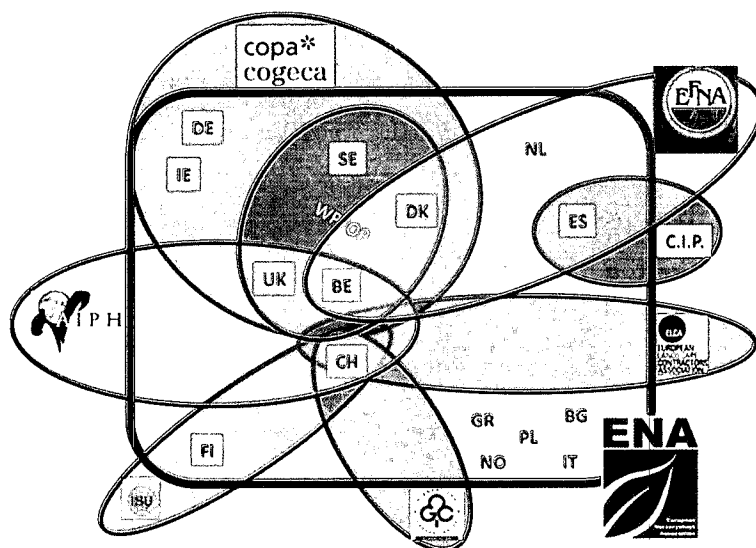
Tim Edwards (UK – President) emphasized the importance of the ENA Working Groups and recapped the working process: clearly identified problems are presented to the General Assembly to set the objective and to ask the WG to deal with it and report back to the GA.

President emphasized WGs need input from members and asked for the full cooperation of all members.

Finally he summarized since the last General Assembly ENA has made a minor update to the website, has created the e-mail address @enaplants.eu, has been registered in the European Transparency Register and had a meeting in December with Mr. Vanhooorde of European Comission Health and Consumers Directorate-General.

6. Relations with other international organizations.

Josep M. Pagès (Secretary General) pictured the relations of our countries with other international organizations according to the information received from ENA members:



Copa-Cogeca is the Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations + General Committee for Agricultural Cooperation in the European Union, EFNA is the European Forestry Nurseries Association, AIPH is the International Association of Horticultural Producers, ISU is the International Perennials Association, IGC is the International Garden Centre Association, ELCA is the European Landscape Contractors Association and CIP is the International Committee of Vine Nurseries. Sweden stated they are also members of ISU and Denmark (after the meeting) communicated they are members of AIPH as well.

Tim Edwards (UK – President) highlighted **the importance of knowing how we are connected in order to know each other, to communicate with, to cooperate and work together in items of common interest.** Serbia suggested adding IFLA-Europe (European Federation of Landscape Architects) and EAC (The European Arboricultural Council) as international organizations to keep relations with and President suggested UF (Union Fleurs) as well. Finally it was asked to members to inform ENA of any other international organization they believe could be of mutual interest to be in contact. The Secretary General was asked to keep this simple diagram of connections up to date and to make it available when required.



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7. AIPH: short presentation by Tim Briercliffe, secretary general of AIPH (www.aiph.org).

Tim Briercliffe, secretary general of AIPH, had been invited to give a presentation about his organization to ENA members (file <AIPH overview IPM Jan15 ENA 20150129.pdf>). AIPH, with 25 members, is a global organization, not involved into lobbying, and has an office based in the United Kingdom with 2 full time employees, including SG. Both he and the ENA President highlighted the opportunity of cooperation between the two organizations.

Specifically, Mr Briercliffe talked to ENA members of their recently created WG on Science & Education inviting them to email him if they were interested in being added to it. This AIPH WG will develop an international conference aimed to growers, not to share basic science but applied information for growers, and will create a database of research carried out by different institutions. Tim Edwards (UK – President) thanked him for the introduction and asserted overlap between both organizations doesn't mean competition but dialogue and cooperation.

8. ENA finances:

a. To receive the annual statement of accounts for 2014.

SG presented the summary of the annual statement of accounts for 2014 (file <ENA Annual statement of accounts 2014.pdf>), including the Income Statement that stated a total income of 21.032,83€ and total expenses of 15.868,53€ resulting in a profit of 5.164,30€; the Statement of Financial Position at 31-12-2014 showing assets for 53.328,08€, liabilities for 9.462,83€ and net assets of 43.865,25€; finally the Cash Flow by date was also shown. **The annual statement of accounts for 2014 was approved by the General Assembly.** It was agreed to forward detailed information in written to all ENA members < ENA Annual statement of accounts 2014 details and Budget 2015.pdf>.

b. Internal financial procedures.

The policy describing how ENA will control the payment of Invoices and Expenses to ensure transparency and traceability was **approved** by the General Assembly (document <ENA Payments Policy 20150129.docx> previously sent to members).

c. ENA membership rates.

Data from each country showing the number of nurseries, the production area, the number of employees and the production value were shown by the SG. It was proposed and **approved to apply the high membership fee rate to the countries that are in the top 80% by three or more criteria, that is Italy, the Netherlands, Germany the United Kingdom and France.** It was recapped France is not a member and as a big European country we'd need to bring it into ENA and ask for the help from delegates if they have contacts with FNPHP, the French nurseries organization.

d. Secretary General package.

The tasks and responsibilities of the Secretary General, along with the compensation and particular conditions of the agreement between ENA and the SG, included in the document <ENA Secretary General package 2015.pdf> previously sent to ENA members, **was approved.**



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- e. **Domestic regulations (to include all previous decisions into the ENA Domestic regulations).**
President proposed and it was agreed by the GA to include the previous decisions about internal financial procedures, membership fees and the secretary general into the Domestic Regulations. It was also decided SG is going to include those items and to send out the enlarged Domestic Regulations to all members; the renewed Domestic Regulations will be considered as approved if no reply is received in two weeks after being sent out.
- f. **To agree a budget for 2015.**
The budget for 2015 was presented by SG, a continuation on most aspects but for the investment to be made in the renewal of the website. The budgeted income is 20.000€, proposing to keep the same membership fees and the budgeted operating expenses is 27.072€. The forecast loss for the year will easily be covered by the net assets. The budget was approved and will be sent out in written to all members <ENA Annual statement of accounts 2014 details and Budget 2015.pdf>.

9. ENA EU Legislation WG:

Marc Van Hulle, chairman of the WG Legislation, distributed some copies of the document <ENA Legislation Working Group 20150129.pdf> summarizing the work of the WG.

- a. **PRM (Plant Reproductive Material EU Regulation).**
ENA produced a document with our opinions and was sent to the EC. The EC withdrew the proposal on 15-12-2014.
- b. **IAS (Invasive Alien Species EU Regulation).**
It was agreed to write a simple letter summarizing our concerns and to send it to the EC, asking for a place in the Committee that will assist the European Commission on IAS. It was also recommended to contact the panel of EPPO (European Plant Protection Organization), as Milka Glavendekić (RS) is representing her country there. It was also approved to include all the information about IAS (ENA opinion and national lists) in the new ENA website.
- c. **Plant health:**
- i. **Plant Health EU Regulation.**
As there is no news it was decided the Legislation WG will keep an eye on it and will keep members updated. An ENA representative will participate at the meeting with the EU Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Mr Vytenis Andriukaitis, in early March 2015.
- ii. **ZP (Protected zones): who assumes in each country the cost of keeping ZPs? –NL–**
Leon Smet (NL) gave his opinion against deregulating ZPs in his country. It was decided that the Working Group will survey ENA members about ZPs, their trend (increasing or decreasing), how are they used and who finances the cost of keeping them in each country, in order to have a document each member can use to lobby its own government. David Brown (UK) informed the meeting that EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) has an ongoing consultation on a number of



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pests regulated by the EU with the objective to check if those pests should continue to be regulated and to check whether current measures are appropriate.

iii. ***Globodera pallida* and *G. rostochiensis* (PCN). –DK–**

Henning Roed (DK) complained that since 1st October 2014 the EU has not required proof that new areas on which hardy nursery stock plants is grown should be free from Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN: *Globodera pallida* and *G. rostochiensis*) and as a consequence exports will be more difficult. Nele Lauwers (BE) added that in Belgium this requirement will be kept in national legislation. It was agreed to enquiry of ENA members about the situation in each country. In addition Harm Horlings (NL) introduced the difficulties to use chemicals in the nurseries soil and it was decided to ask members about the situation in each country as well. The WG will carry out this survey and will report back to the General Assembly.

iv. ***Xylella fastidiosa* –IT–**

Edoardo Sciutti (IT) brought into the attention of the ENA members the problem Italy has with the bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa*. Although it has been found only in a southern region as a result some countries like Algeria, Tunisia, China and Montenegro have closed their borders to Italian plants. It was agreed to ask each ENA member 1) if there are similar problems to export to Algeria and 2) how this new disease is affecting nurseries in each country. The Working Group will carry out this job and will report back to the General Assembly.

Finally President Edwards and Marc Van Hulle emphasized that **every country should participate in the Legislation WG.**

d. **Nagoya protocol.**

Tim Edwards (UK– President) asked to the GA if their countries are concerned about the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources. It was decided David Brown (UK) is going to produce a one page summary of the implications of this protocol for nurseries and the chairman of the WG, Marc Van Hulle (BE), will contact Mia Hopperus Buma of AIPH to understand how this protocol will affect plant production. When that has been done, the information will be circulated around all Members.

e. **Expanding the Chapter 6 codes of the Combined Nomenclature. –IT–**

Edoardo Sciutti (IT) detailed the main changes Italy is proposing to update the Combined Nomenclature: to use units of plants instead of weight (as on the invoices) and to add some items to have more detailed information. It was mentioned that this might imply additional office work for nurseries. The meeting was told that Copa-Cogeca also supports the proposal. Finally it was agreed that ENA will give written support to the Italian proposal. It was also agreed that the Working Group will produce a document on the correct use of codes, including examples for each code.

f. **CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) in ornamental sector. –ES–**

Alba Riado-Bouloumié (ES) informed the meeting that not all EU member states include the nursery sector in the basic payment scheme of CAP. It was agreed to send out a



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questionnaire asking the situation in each country: if nurseries can receive basic payments and if container nurseries are excluded. The Working Group will co-ordinate this work.

g. TTIP (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership).

After the publication of the first proposals of legal text of the partnership the EU and the USA are negotiating it was decided to pay attention to the development of negotiations and keep members informed. The Working Group will do this.

Although not related to the TTIP, NL and UK explained they have American officers working in their countries doing pre-inspections to facilitate the exports to the US. It was decided the ENA WG will investigate what is possible for other countries and how to do it. It was also agreed to express ENA concerns to the EU authorities and to the US authorities and nurseries organization.

h. VAT (Value Added Tax).

ENA members had been already informed about the EU reform of VAT <Note on the VAT revision in the EU.pdf> and an updated document summarizing the VAT rates for plants <ENA Plants VAT rates 2015-01.pdf> in each country was presented and agreed to be included in the future website.

10. ENA Promotion Working Group.

The chairman of the WG, Leon Smet (NL), gave a presentation <ENA Promotion WG LSmet 20150129.pdf> **summarizing the promotional activities carried on in Europe** and introduced the Green City concept and project.

Tim Edwards (UK – President) asked each country to send a participant to the WG, even if they do nothing yet, and proposed to circulate the list of promotion activities made in Europe, and to include links in the promotion part of the new website. It was discussed how iVerde could help ENA **to develop a Green City identity** and it was decided to ask to the Promotion WG chairman to create a strategy to put the Green City movement forward into the ENA.

11. ENA Website renewal.

Following the briefing prepared by a small WG, three offers to provide a new website were received and distributed (Click SCCL, GreenMark and our current provider Claerhout Communicatiehuis). It was decided to choose the proposal by GreenMark, which was also the cheapest one. The Secretary General will commission this work and the small working group will manage delivery of the project.

12. European nurseries statistics update.

SG presented the last data received from ENA members regarding the number of nurseries, the production area, the number of employees and the production value <ENA European nursery sector 20150129.pdf>. It was highlighted **ENA represents around 80% of the EU nursery business**. It was agreed to keep the European nurseries statistics updated annually.



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13. International Plant Names List. Re-activation of the 'European Plant Names Working Group'.

Leon Smet (NL) informed the meeting that the taxonomist Dr Marco Hoffman is leading the IPNL, which will be funded by the Dutch sector, and proposed to reactivate the WG with taxonomists and nurserymen together. The GA approved the involvement of ENA to form the WG and to work under the coordination of Dr Hoffman; Leon Smet accepted to be the chairman of it.

Harm Horlings (NL) asked for the result of the meeting to approach positions with UK and DE and Tim Edwards (UK – President) replied he had a meeting with the RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) and a meeting of European Cultivated Plant Taxonomists will be held in April 2015 were many taxonomists involved in the IPNL will participate.

14. Information about the Swedish E-Plant system.

After information about the Swedish E-Planta quality assurance system was received and distributed to members, Patrick Svensson (SE) informed they are currently discussing the possibility of opening the system to growers from abroad.

15. ENA new member:

a. Presentation of Serbian nursery sector.

Milka Glavendekić (RS) gave a presentation about the nursery sector in Serbia <ENA SERBIA Nursery Production by MGlavendekić 20150129.pdf>, emphasising the lack of national quality standards and their interest in applying the ENA Quality Standards in Serbia.

b. Approval of Serbian organization as observer member.

The Serbian organization "Society of Landscape Horticulture in Serbia" had formally asked to become member of ENA, Milka Glavendekić asked to become "full" member instead of "observer", the SG informed the General Assembly that the organization fulfils all requirements to be a member thus **the GA accepted and welcomed the "Society of Landscape Horticulture in Serbia" as full ENA member**.

Finally Tim Edwards (UK – President) formally invited the Ukrainian delegation to send the application requesting membership and to give a presentation to the next GA meeting.

16. Milan Expo 2015 –IT–

Edoardo Sciutti (Italy) informed about the Expo Milano 2015 and the possibility to obtain a free space to promote the green sector and ENA as organization, at no cost for ENA, and asked for a letter of interest of ENA to facilitate it. It was determined the participation of ENA was of low interest and the Italian organization invited the national organizations to participate.

17. Summer meeting 2015.

The draft of the summer meeting program (Moscow, 25-28 June 2015) was previously sent to ENA members; Tim Edwards (UK – President) recognized the difficulties of having the GA in a non-ENA member country and **invited the Russian organization to join ENA as full member**, arguing the cost is low and there is a lot to share and learn.



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Irina Savvateeva (RU) assured the General Assembly that her organization would discuss it and give an answer within two weeks. It was decided to wait to hear from **Russia** and if their **association decides to become full ENA member the summer meeting will be held in Moscow**. The options to have the meeting in Greece, advancing their proposal for 2016, in Sweden or in Finland, scheduled for 2017, were also mentioned.

18. State of industry.

The report summarizing the state of industry in each country was previously sent to ENA delegates. It was decided to find space to properly talk about it during the summer meeting and the countries who have not replied were requested to do so.

19. Date of Next secretaries Meeting.

It was decided to organize a secretaries meeting in May 2015 in Brussels. The Spanish organization offered to host the meeting in their office in Brussels.

20. Press release.

It was agreed to include the following topics into the press release: data about European nurseries, agreement on the code of nomenclature, a summary of what's been done by the WGs, the approval of the new member and the future meeting with the EU Commissioner. It was also proposed to split it in several press releases if more impact can be created.

21. AOB.

Luis B. Martín (ES) expressed the concerns about the lack of Plant Protection Products and proposed to exchange information about the availability of PPP in each country in order to help each other in the task of mutual recognition. It was decided the ENA Legislation WG will ask to each member if they have a central database of PPP approved for nursery use and about the involvement of ENA organizations on this work.

Harm Horlings (NL) proposed to invite Portugal again into the ENA and it was agreed to ask the Portuguese organization to join ENA as an observer member.

Marc Van Hulle (BE) asked if the environmental responsibility and sustainability of nurseries should be a subject for ENA to work on. It was decided to think about environmental effects of nurseries, about the many environmental certifications and labels and to make a proposal for the next meeting. The mutual recognition of certifications was revealed as something to work on and the possibility to create a new ENA WG chaired by Harm Horlings (NL) was mentioned.

The General Assembly meeting was adjourned at 13h20.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Savvateeva', is written over a horizontal line.